

What is the meaning of the Hadīth "The Dunyâ is a prison for the believer, and a Jannâh for the Kāfir"

Shaykh Sulaymān al-'Alwān (حفظه الله) narrates a Story that's spoken about of al-Hāfidh Ibn Hajr (رحمه الله) regarding this Hadīth:

“...Ibn Hajr (رحمه الله) & his companions were walking on a road, when a man who sells olives from the people of the book approached him & said: You're the one who's called Shaykh al-Islām. Your Prophet says "The Dunyâ is a prison for the believer, and a Jannâh for the Kāfir", so what Jannâh are we in right now, and what prison are you in? So Ibn Hajr (رحمه الله) said to him: You are in a Jannâh for what Allāh has reckoned for you of punishment in the hereafter if you die upon Kufr, and I'm in a prison for what Allāh has reckoned for us of comfort/bliss when we die upon Islām.

So the Kuffār today are considered to be in Jannâh, for what Allāh has reckoned for them with punishment [in the hereafter]...”

~ Taken from a Lecture where he speaks about the Hadīth of "Do not wish for death because of a distress that you are afflicted by"